

## House Republican Press Release

February 23, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Williams Supports Measure to Allow Paid Firefighters to Volunteer in their Home Towns**



**HARTFORD-** State Representative Sean Williams (R-Oakville) today announced his support for legislation that would allow paid professional firefighters to act as volunteer firefighters in the town where they reside. Representative Williams has introduced a bill that would make this change to the Connecticut State Statutes, and

has signed on as a co-sponsor to similar measures before the legislature this session.

“This is a great un-tapped resource,” said Representative Williams. “If a firefighter who is a paid municipal employee in one town wants to volunteer his services to the town in which he or she lives, it seems absurd to stand in the way of this. Many towns still rely on volunteers for fire and EMS services, and it makes no sense to prohibit someone who has the training and experience to serve in this volunteer capacity from doing so.”

Representative Williams also noted that allowing a paid municipal firefighter to volunteer in their hometown would also provide savings for a municipality that relies on volunteers. “When an experienced and fully-trained firefighter volunteers to serve their town, the town does not have to make the costly investment in training and certification of someone who is previously inexperienced. It’s a winner for everyone involved, and we should encourage firefighters who may want to volunteer to do so,” said Williams.

Representative Williams’ bill, HB 5247, *An Act Concerning the Service of Permanent Paid Firefighters as Volunteer Firefighters*, is currently before the legislature’s joint Committee on Public Safety and Security.